

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
BOARD OF COUNSELING  
DISCIPLINARY SUBCOMMITTEE

In the Matter of

Lawrence M. Ventline, L.L.P.C.  
License No. 64-01-007251

Complaint No. 64-19-155502

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

An administrative complaint has been issued against Respondent under the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended; MCL 333.1101 *et seq.*, promulgated rules, and the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, as amended; MCL 24.201 *et seq.*

After consideration of the documentation filed in this case and consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of Counseling, the Department concludes that the public health, safety or welfare requires emergency action, as allowed by section 16233(5) of the Public Health Code and section 92(2) of the Administrative Procedures Act.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Respondent's license to practice as a limited licensed counselor in the State of Michigan shall be summarily suspended commencing on the date this order is served.

Under Mich Admin Code, R 792.10702, Respondent has the right to petition for the dissolution of this order of summary suspension. This petition shall clearly state that it is a Petition for Dissolution of Summary Suspension and shall be filed with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Professional Licensing, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, Michigan 48909, with a copy served upon the Department of Attorney General, Licensing & Regulation Division, P.O. Box 30758, Lansing, Michigan, 48909. Questions concerning the Order of Summary Suspension may be directed to (517) 335-7569. Upon receipt of such a petition, an administrative hearing will immediately be scheduled before an administrative law judge, who shall dissolve the order of summary suspension unless sufficient

evidence is produced to support a finding that the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action and a continuation of the suspension order.

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND  
REGULATORY AFFAIRS

By:   
Cheryl Wykoff Pezon, Director  
Bureau of Professional Licensing

Dated: 05/16/19

LF: 2019-0248981-A/ Ventline, Lawrence M., LLPC 155502/Order of Summary Suspension– 2019-05-0

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Attorney General Dana Nessel, through Assistant Attorneys General Michelle M. Brya, Joshua O. Booth, and Bridget K. Smith, on behalf of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Professional Licensing (Complainant), files this complaint against Lawrence M. Ventline, L.L.P.C. (Respondent) alleging upon information and belief as follows:

1. The Board of Counseling, an administrative agency established by the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, MCL 333.1101 *et seq.*, is empowered to discipline licensees under the Code through its Disciplinary Subcommittee.

2. Respondent is currently an educationally limited licensed professional counselor pursuant to the Public Health Code and has been licensed as an educationally limited licensed professional counselor since 1999.

3. Section 16221(a) of the Code provides the Disciplinary Subcommittee with authority to take disciplinary action against a licensee for a violation of general duty, consisting of negligence or failure to exercise due care, including

negligent delegation to, or supervision of employees or other individuals, whether or not injury results, or any conduct, practice, or condition that impairs, or may impair, the ability to safely and skillfully practice as a limited licensed professional counselor

4. Section 16221(b)(i) of the Code authorizes the Disciplinary Subcommittee to take disciplinary action against a licensee for incompetence, which is defined at section 16106(1) of the Code as a “departure from, or failure to conform to, minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing practice for a health profession, whether or not actual injury to an individual occurs.”

5. Section 16221(b)(iii) of the Code provides the Disciplinary Subcommittee with authority to take disciplinary action against a licensee for a mental or physical inability reasonably related to the licensee’s ability to practice in a safe and competent manner.

6. Section 16221(b)(vi) of the Code provides the Disciplinary Subcommittee with authority to take disciplinary action against a licensee for lack of good moral character, defined at section 1 of 1974 PA 381, as amended; MCL 338.41 *et seq.*, as the “propensity on the part of the person to serve the public in the licensed area in a fair, honest and open manner.”

7. Section 16221(c)(iii) of the Code provides the Disciplinary Subcommittee with authority to take disciplinary action against a licensee for practice outside the scope of a license.

8. Section 16221(d)(i) of the Code provides the Disciplinary Subcommittee with authority to take disciplinary action against a licensee for unethical business practices including false or misleading advertising.

9. Section 16221(h) of the Public Health Code provides the Disciplinary Subcommittee with authority to take disciplinary action against a licensee for “[a] violation or aiding or abetting in a violation of this article or of a rule promulgated under this article.”

10. Section 18111(2) provides that a limited license issued under this section requires the individual to confine his practice to a program of counseling experience under the supervision of a licensed professional counselor.

11. Section 16233(5) of the Public Health Code provides for the summary suspension of a license, reading, in pertinent part, as follows:

After consultation with the chair of the appropriate board or task force or his or her designee, the department may summarily suspend a license or registration if the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action in accordance with section 92 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, being section 24.292 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. If a licensee or registrant is convicted of a felony; a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of 2 years; or a misdemeanor involving the illegal delivery, possession, or use of a controlled substance, the department shall find that the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action and, in accordance with section 92 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, shall summarily suspend the licensee's license or the registrant's registration.

12. Section 16226 of the Code authorizes the Disciplinary Subcommittee to impose sanctions against a licensee if, after opportunity for a hearing, the

Disciplinary Subcommittee determines that a licensee violated one or more of the subdivisions contained in section 16221 of the Code.

## ALLEGATIONS

### Assault Allegations

13. Respondent was ordained as a Catholic priest in 1976.
14. The Archdiocese of Detroit assigned Respondent to serve as pastor for a Catholic parish and school from September 15, 1987 to May 28, 1990.
15. During the 1989-1990 school year, on at least three occasions, Respondent called Student 1 (the student's name is being withheld to protect his confidentiality) to the church's Sacristy under the guise of needing Student 1 to assist him with cleaning and moving things. Instead, on each occasion, Respondent sexually assaulted Student 1. At that time, Student 1 was approximately 11 years old.  
16. Specifically, the first time he called Student 1 to the Sacristy, Respondent pulled down his own pants and asked Student 1 to touch his penis. Respondent then pulled down Student 1's pants, and Respondent touched Student 1's penis. Respondent then "threw [Student 1] around" so he was facing the countertop and penetrated Student 1's anus with Respondent's penis.
17. Respondent subsequently assaulted Student 1 in a similar manner on at least two other occasions. Each incident included Respondent penetrating Student 1's anus with his penis.

### **Counseling and Mental Health Allegations**

18. Respondent obtained an educationally limited professional counseling license in 1999 that remained active as of the date of this administrative complaint.

19. An investigation revealed information that Respondent suffered from ongoing mental health problems that were exacerbated by the stresses of providing counseling services. There is evidence indicating that the services at issue related to his non-secular practice.

20. Furthermore, as of February 6, 2017, Respondent was not compliant with his physician's treatment recommendations for his health issues. The same physician recommended that the church allow Respondent to retire "for his mental and physical wellbeing."

21. Despite these recommendations, Respondent continues to provide non-secular counseling services.

22. In September 2018, Respondent advertised himself as "Dr. Lawrence M. Ventline, Board Certified Professional Counselor." In the same newspaper, he advertised for heroin recovery services as "DR VENTLINE" and "Dr. Lawrence Ventline, Ph.D." Nowhere in the advertisement did Respondent indicate he held an educationally limited license.

23. In 2019, on at least one occasion, Respondent failed to clarify that he held an educationally limited license, instead referring to his degree in psychology and prices that compared to others who held a Ph.D.

24. Furthermore, there is no evidence that Respondent's non-secular counseling services were provided under the supervision of a licensed professional counselor as required by the Public Health Code.

**COUNT I**

24. Respondent's conduct as described above evidences negligence, including conduct, practice, or condition that impairs, or may impair, his ability to safely and skillfully practice as a limited licensed professional counselor.

**COUNT II**

25. Respondent's conduct as described in paragraphs 18 through 24 constitutes incompetence in violation of section 16221(b)(i) of the Code.

**COUNT III**

26. Respondent's conduct as described above evidences a mental or physical inability reasonably related to Respondent's ability to practice in a safe and competent manner in violation of section 16221(b)(iii).

**COUNT IV**

27. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes a lack of good moral character in violation of section 16221(b)(vi) of the Code.

**COUNT V**

28. Respondent's conduct as described in paragraphs 18 through 24 evidences practice outside the scope of his limited license in violation of section 16221(c)(iii) of the Code.

**COUNT VI**

29. Respondent's conduct described in paragraph 22 and 23 evidences false or misleading advertising in violation of section 16221(d)(i) of the Code.

**COUNT VII**

30. Respondent's conduct as described in paragraphs 18 through 24 evidences a failure to confine his practice to a program of counseling experience under the supervision of a licensed professional counselor contrary to section 18111(2) of the Code, and in violation of section 16221(h) of the Code.

THEREFORE, Complainant requests that this Complaint be served upon Respondent and that Respondent be offered an opportunity to show compliance with all lawful requirements for retention of the aforesaid license. If compliance is not shown, Complainant further requests that formal proceedings be commenced pursuant to the Public Health Code, rules promulgated pursuant to it, and the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, as amended; MCL 24.201 *et seq.*

FURTHER, Complainant requests that pending the hearing and final determination Respondent's license to practice as a limited licensed counselor in the State of Michigan be summarily suspended pursuant to section 92 of the Administrative Procedures Act and section 16233(5) of the Public Health Code for the reason that, based upon the allegations set forth herein, to permit Respondent to continue to practice the profession constitutes a danger to the public health, safety and welfare requiring emergency action.

RESPONDENT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that, pursuant to section 16231(8) of the Public Health Code, Respondent has 30 days from the receipt of this Complaint to submit a written response to the allegations contained in it. Pursuant to section 16192(2) of the Code, Respondent is deemed to be in receipt of the complaint 3 days after the date of mailing listed in the attached proof of service. The written response shall be submitted to the Bureau of Professional Licensing, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, P.O. Box 30670, Lansing, Michigan, 48909, with a copy to the undersigned assistant attorney general.

Further, pursuant to section 16231(9), failure to submit a written response within 30 days shall be treated as an admission of the allegations contained in the complaint and shall result in the transmittal of the compliant directly to the Board's Disciplinary Subcommittee for imposition of an appropriate sanction.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA NESSEL  
Attorney General



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Dated: May 15, 2019

LF: 2019-0248981-A/ Ventline, Lawrence M., LLPC 155502/Complaint – Administrative – 2019-05-09